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can be written. In Mr. Dunlap's work, however, the present edition of which is a book of six hundred pages, with an elaborate index, we find an attempt at this difficult goal. The volume includes an abridgment of Blackstone's Commentaries, of Chitty on Pleading, Greenleaf on Evidence, and Story on Equity Jurisprudence. In addition there are separate discussions in a brief and concise form of the following subjects: Code Pleading, Contracts, Commercial Paper, Sales, Agency, Partnership, Bailments, Corporations, Domestic Relations, Torts, and Administration. Real Property is treated in an abridgment of Blackstone's second volume, to which many notes bearing on the later development of the law have been added.

The work's chief claim to attention lies in its serviceability to students who are preparing to take bar examinations in the various states. Graduates of law schools generally, and especially those holding a degree from a school where the case system is in use, know how important it is to review the subjects upon which the examinations for admission to the bar are based; and they have learnt from personal experience how well-nigh impossible it is to find a book treating the various topics of the law in a small and yet comprehensive compass. This new edition of Dunlap's *Elementary Law* more nearly satisfies the demand for such a manual than any that has come to our attention. Its adaptation to the purpose so far as the number of subjects treated is concerned, may be judged from an inspection of the requirements for the practice of law made in most of the states. In Texas, for example, the candidate for admission to the bar is expected to manifest familiarity with the following subjects: first, the elements of common law, and more particularly volumes one, two, and three of Blackstone's Commentaries; second, real property; third, contracts, and, under this division, the elements of contracts, sales, bills and notes, carriers, partnerships, corporations and agency; fourth, torts; fifth, equity jurisprudence; sixth, pleading, practice, and evidence; seventh, domestic relations and administration of decedents' estates; eighth, constitutional and statutory law; and ninth, criminal law, particularly the fourth volume of Blackstone. Inasmuch as the questions asked in Texas range over as wide a field as those propounded in other jurisdictions, Mr. Dunlap's Abridgment seems to cover satisfactorily the scope of a bar examination. The substantive matter of the book is also of good quality: the abridgments of the standard works are made with care; and the original treatises on other branches of the law set forth clearly, concisely, and correctly the leading principles which it is important to have in mind.

GAI INSTITUTIONES, or Institutes of Roman Law by Gaius. With a Translation and Commentary by the late Edward Poste. Fourth Edition, revised and enlarged by E. A. Whittuck. With an historical introduction by A. H. J. Greenidge. Oxford: The Clarendon Press. 1904. pp. lv, 668. 8vo.

Anyone who uses the translation and commentary of the late Edward Poste on the Institutes of Roman Law by Gaius will agree that the words of the Vice-Chancellor of his University, *Omnium quos cognovi, doctissimus*, were deservedly applied. The present edition of the work, which is its fourth, is by E. A. Whittuck, who has revised the translation and commentary and made other changes. Chief among the differences between this and preceding editions is the abridgment of those portions of the commentary which had reference to analytic jurisprudence. This has been done for the purpose of rendering the commentary less difficult to students, and in the belief that the general theory of the law might better be studied in other treatises. In consequence, the Preliminary Definitions are omitted, and in their place has been inserted an Historical Introduction to Gaius, of some fifty pages, by Dr. Greenidge, an authority on Roman Constitutional history. In this introduction are considered the sources and development of Roman law, showing its gradual unification in succeeding epochs: first, the period in which the customs of the clans merged

into the customs of the state; second, that in which a uniform system for both patricians and plebeians was evolved; third, the unification of Rome with Italy, and last, continuing to the time of Gaius himself, that of imperial unification. The text used is that of Krueger and Studemund; and some conjectural readings are added in the appendix.

The text of Gaius and Mr. Poste's translation are set out in parallel columns, and the commentary is interpolated at the natural divisions of the subject-matter. The translation is done in clear, terse English, and the force of the Latin seems not to have been lost. The commentary, too, shows at the same time the learning of the author and his proficiency in the use of his mother tongue, for it is clear, readable, and interesting. A chronological table of events important in the development of Roman law is prefixed to the translation and commentary, and an excellent index to both text and commentary is supplied at the end.

THE NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

By John A. Fairlie. New York: The Macmillan Company. 1905. pp. xi, 274. 16mo.

In his preface to this volume the author expresses his surprise that "no comprehensive and systematic work on American national administration" has as yet been published, since, in his opinion, the problems of administration, as distinguished from the problems arising from the operation of the legislative and judicial branches of the government, are the "important problems of the present." One might possibly be led from this to infer that the main purpose of the volume was to contribute something in the way of original discussion to the administrative problems which are to-day vexing students, writers, and statesmen. Outside, however, of the first two chapters, on the President, little of this sort of thing is attempted. The book is, in short, simply a detailed exposition of the functions of the administrative officers of the United States and of the organization of the administrative departments. The first chapter on the President discusses the development of the President's power of appointment and removal, and of his ordinance power, particularly from the aspects in which those powers merge with and partake of the nature of the legislative and judicial functions. There are short chapters on the relation of Congress to the Administration, and on the constitution of the Cabinet. The remaining two-thirds of the volume are devoted to a detailed account of the organization of the Departments, prefaced in each case by a brief historical summary. The chapters are admirable in arrangement, and their information exhaustive; no departmental functionary is too humble to have escaped the author's notice. The book fills a distinct need, and should prove of much value for speedy reference.

THE HINDU WILLS ACT (Act XXI of 1870), with which is incorporated the Probate and Administration Act, with elaborate notes and commentaries. By Mahendra Chandra Majumdar. Calcutta: Sanyal & Co. 1904. pp. lvi, 824. 8vo.

A codification of any branch of the law invariably creates a demand for a work of comment and annotation as an aid in interpreting and applying the bare skeleton of the statute. To satisfy such a demand is the aim of the present work. The book opens with a brief preliminary statement of the causes and conditions which led to the passage in 1870 of the Hindu Wills Act, extending to the native races of India rules and regulations similar to those which govern testamentary disposition in England. Then follows a commentary which takes up each section of the Act in order, compares it with the law in England, and illustrates its practical application by a review of the English and Indian cases.